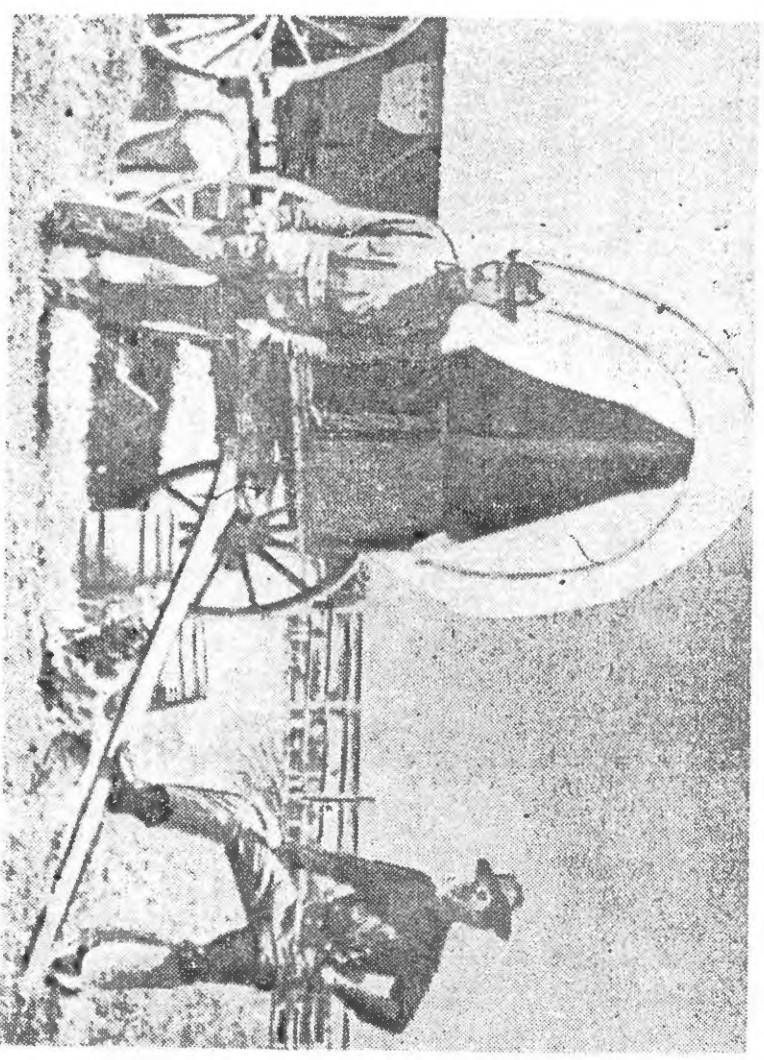




SHEEP-SHEARING, DIPPING



Sheep Camp in 1895

SHEEP-SHEARING, DIPPING

The sheep herds were halted long enough, on their return trip to the mountain grazing ranges from the desert, to be sheared and dipped. The shearing episode was hailed with acclaim for good times. It was then we could all go to the shearing corrals to join in the feast of mutton chops cloaked with mouth-smacking relish in the Dutch ovens and the sour-dough bread done to a turn in the sheet iron camp ovens always toted in the camp wagons and fed to a red-hot heat with cedar chips of fuel. Such viands were fit for the ripping hungry hangers-on — we who came to the sheep camp once a year to fill up on good food known to no other earthly spot. Then as a climax we went out to hunt for the marked pine trees where the herders had located big hunks of gum-hardened chunks of sap from the pine trees where it had cozed out and dried. The clear-looking knobs were chipped off first and let fall into the empty can. It was a knack to swash the hard lump with the aid of teeth and tongue to the right consistency and

grown fleece wend their way back to the great American Desert for wintering. This round trip, mountains to desert in the fall, and desert to mountains in the spring, has an arresting sequence. Shearing, and the immediate dipping for the eradication of vermin when the fleece is very close, are carefully planned. These two great events occur when the herd is driven to the sidehills, where the public corrals are handy for clipping the year's growth of wool for the market. The wool fleece is the owner's one avenue of income, except for the culling of old ewes for mutton or the younger ones for the lamb market. Also, now the rams (male sheep) are turned into the ewe herd (females) to prepare for the early spring lambing season when the sheep are on the exodus to the mountains.

When the shearers are ready for their act of taking the fleece from the blating four-footers, the elite of the wool industry line up with the wool tier and wool sacker, along with the chuck wagons for supplying "chow", and all

Sheep Shearing & Branding



Goading sheep into sweat & shearing shed



Shearing shed on wheels

Shearing Operation



*Victor Saxton
Harold Christensen
Robert Hicken*







